

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 00854 261558Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SP-02 SSO-00 INRE-00 EURE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

NSCE-00 EB-07 L-02 H-01 /054 W

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O R 261545Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2070

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 854

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO

SUBJ: NY TIMES EDITORIAL "BELGRADE STALINISM"

REF: STATE 41903

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL IS POTENTIALLY DAMAGING EXTENSION OF DISTORTED REPORTING BY TIMES CORRESPONDENT ON WHICH WE PREVIOUSLY HAVE COMMENTED.

2. BY IMPLYING THAT DEATH SENTENCE MIGHT BE IMPOSED ON MIHAJLOV AND REFERRING TO SUPPOSED TERRORIZATION OF POTENTIAL DISSIDENTS, EDITORIAL PAINTS A PICTURE OF TERROR AND REPRESSION WHICH IS SIMPLY INACCURATE AND IS HIGHLY MISLEADING. THERE IS NO MASSIVE PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE UNITED STATES, AND WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THE EDITORIAL WRITER PICKED UP SUCH PHRASING.

3. YUGOSLAVIA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION IS "WORSENING" NO MORE QUICKLY NOR SERIOUSLY THAN THAT OF HER WESTERN EUROPEAN TRADING PARTNERS, AND IF COMPARED, FOR EXAMPLE, TO ITALY, YUGOSLAVIA IS IN GOOD SHAPE. THE IMPLICATION THAT MASSIVE NUMBERS OF YUGOSLAVS ARE RETURNING FROM WESTERN EUROPE IS UNTRUE AND ALSO MISLEADING.

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4. IN SUM, WE WOULD HOPE DEPARTMENT COULD FIND OPPORTUNITY TO EX-

PRESS TO TIMES EDITORS OUR DISMAY AT THE PROMULGATION OF SUCH A
FALSE PICTURE OF THE SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA, AND ASK THAT
SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO DOING SOMETHING TO CORRECT THE
RECORD -- ALTHOUGH UNFORTUNATELY THE DAMAGE ALREADY PROBABLY HAS
BEEN DONE.

MILLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL STABILITY, TEXT, STALINISM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BELGRA00854
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750067-0978
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750212/aaaaakps.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 41903
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NY TIMES EDITORIAL "BELGRADE STALINISM"
TAGS: PFOR, YO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006